

REMARKS

In the specification, the Abstract and the paragraph on page 1, lines 17-18 have
5 been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Claims 1-13 remain pending in the present Application. Claims 9 and 10 each
have been amended twice. Claims 1 and 11 each have been amended once. No new
matter has been entered.

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The foregoing amendment is submitted to more particularly set forth the claimed
invention and to highlight the differences between the claimed invention and the cited
prior art.

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The present invention is directed to a system for browsing a collection of
information units, which enables a user to easily explore the collection of information
units. The system of the present invention comprises presentation means for presenting
at least one of said information units, and attribute means for associating a respective
one of said information units with an attribute value. The system of the present
20 invention further comprises random selection means for automatically randomly
selecting and presenting a unit whose attribute value meets a criterion without
interaction by a user.

In view of the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in the EPO on 28 July 2000, Applicants will file a certified copy of the EPO application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

5 The drawings stand objected to because they fail to show necessary textual labels of features or symbols in Figures 1-3 as described in the specification. The deficient items are numbers 101-108 in Figure 1, numbers 205, 210 and 211 in Figure 2, and numbers 303 and 304 in Figure 3. Applicants have attached hereto red-marked copies of the drawings to make proposed corrections for complying with the Examiner's
10 requirements to facilitate better understanding without substantial analysis of the detailed specification. It is respectfully requested that the proposed drawing corrections be approved.

 The disclosure stands objected to because of the extraneous characters "Fig. 2"
15 contained in the Abstract. Applicants have amended the Abstract to correct the deficiency as cited by the Examiner.

 The disclosure stands objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code on page 1, lines 17-18. Applicants have
20 amended the corresponding paragraph by removing entire sentence containing the hyperlink reference in order to correct the deficiency as cited by the Examiner.

Claim 11 stands objected to because of the absence of a period at the termination of the claim. Applicants have amended the claim to include a period at the end.

5 Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding Claim 9, the Office Action states that the term "large distance" is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. Applicants have amended the claim to remove the indefinite term. Regarding Claim 10,
10 the Office Action states that the limitation of "display means for displaying a simulation of a slot machine" is vague and indefinite. Applicants have amended Claim 10 to more precisely define the meets and bounds of the subject matter being sought to be protected. In view of the changes made to Claims 9 and 10, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

15 Claims 1-5, 9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cluts (U.S. Patent 5,616,876). The rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

20 Cluts discloses a system for selecting music on the basis of subjective content. The Cluts system allows a subscriber to listen to songs. The subscriber may select songs on the basis of title, artist and album. The Cluts system also provides playlists, which are a predetermined collection of songs for the subscriber to select from.

Applicants' present invention is directed to a system for browsing a collection of information units that includes presentation means for presenting at least one of the information units and attribute means for associating a respective one of the information units with an attribute value, wherein the system comprises random selection means for automatically randomly selecting and presenting a unit whose attribute value meets a criterion, the selection and presentation being made without interaction by a user.

Cluts fails to disclose a random selection means as now claimed by Applicants.

In the present invention, the random selection means which is adapted to randomly select an information unit for presentation whose attribute value meets a criterion. This allows the user to specify in the absence of precise details which information unit would be presented to him on a random basis (see, page 2, lines 1-6 of the specification).

This aspect of Applicants' claimed invention is materially different than what is disclosed in Cluts. Cluts teaches a system which compiles a list of songs based on the seed song's style, and performs a random sort of the songs that were previously compiled.

The system picks the first 10 songs from the sorted group of songs and displays a list of the 10 songs to the subscriber (Col. 18, lines 46-54). Accordingly, Cluts merely teaches the preparation a playlist of songs containing a random sort for display to the subscriber.

The subscriber must select from the playlist for playing. This is materially different than the invention now claimed by the Applicants. In the present invention, the system simply selects a random song in an arbitrary manner and presents and plays the song directly to the user.

Regarding Claims 1 and 11, as noted above, Cluts fails to teach randomly selecting an information unit for presentation to the user. Cluts discloses in Column 18, lines 51-54, solely performing a random sort of songs in a playlist and picking the first ten songs from the playlist for display to the subscriber to permit the subscriber to select a song from the list. There is no teaching in Cluts for randomly selecting an information unit for presentation to the user as now claimed by Applicants. Cluts teaches away from Applicant's invention as now claimed. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11 are materially different to what is taught and disclosed in Cluts, and are thus patentable. Claims 2 to 5 and 9, and Claims 12 and 13 are patentable since each ultimately depends from Claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cluts (U.S. Patent 5,616,876) as applied 1-5, 9 and 11-13 above, and further in view of Dunning et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0229537). The rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The comments as applied previously to Cluts are applicable herein. Cluts fails to disclose a material limitation as discussed above. Accordingly, the combination of Cluts and Dunning et al. fails to meet the combination of Applicants' invention as now claimed. Claim 6 is patentable over the cited references whether taken individually or in combination. Claims 7 and 8 are also patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 6, since each ultimately depend therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present invention is in condition for allowance and early passage to issue is therefore deemed proper and respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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It is believed that no additional fee is due. However, if any additional fee is due, it should be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0510.

Respectfully submitted,



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